



Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Monday, March 23, 2015
5:00-6:30 P.M.
MINUTES

Welcome and call to order at 5:02 PM

Board Members In Attendance: Chad Galts, Martin Huntley, Rick Richards, Nicky Nichtern, Ellen Foley, Robin Warde, Nancy Levitt-Vieira, Julie Nora.

Absent: Kathy Cloutier, Anna Cano Morales

Staff in Attendance: Liz Machado, Brooke Odessa

Others: John Garcia

PUBLIC COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

- The minutes of the previous meeting of February 23, 2015 were unanimously approved.
- Approval of the minutes of the Executive Session on that date was deferred until the next Executive Session.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Development Committee
 - Met 3/6/2015.
 - Finalized job description for a part-time development position.
 - Met with Betsy Grenier, a possible candidate for this position, to describe what we are looking for. She will present proposal. RI Foundation grant will pay for the position.
- Academic Committee: Last met 3/13/2015 after several weather cancellations.
 - Discussed how the committee can be most effective in doing its work.
 - Focus of meeting: second language proficiency assessment.
 - Noted that mission-specific metrics were an especially important funding requirement (per the document Julie distributed from the LISC meeting

- she attended), but that we lack good instruments for assessing this key feature of the school's program.
 - Concerns about quantity of assessment overall need to be kept in mind. Authenticity of assessment also a concern.
 - We will be meeting with Patricia Sobral of Brown's Portuguese and Brazilian Studies department and Maria Pacheco of The Education Alliance to explore further.
 - Next meeting Monday, April 6, 2015
- Finance Committee: Met just prior to this meeting
 - Budget is on track, but still projecting deficit for the year.
 - Step scale for wages has to be reviewed every 3 years. We will be presented with the new 3 year scale later for our approval.
 - Liz is working on investment policy for the new business handbook.
 - House Funding Commission is studying the charter school funding formula. We need to be more pro-active and understand better what's involved.
 - Noted that we have higher costs than the Mayoral Academies (which are not subject to prevailing wage or retirement contribution requirements), and that, as a small school with most staff at higher steps on the scale, our staffing costs are also high.
- Governance Committee:
 - Plans to meet back-to-back with Development Committee to ensure more interaction between the two committees.
 - Work continues on seeking new members for the Board.
 - Need to set dates for a Board retreat – Robin will distribute a survey of possible dates.
- Health & Wellness Committee:
 - ICS dominated the St. Patrick's 5K run on March 7, 2015.
- Evaluation Committee: Has not met.
- Expansion Committee: Met 3/16/2015
 - Currently considering two sites. Construction estimates should be forthcoming soon.
 - Continue to meet with LISC local.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Strategic Plan
 - The working group has an interim draft outline in process, and plans to present it at the next meeting.

Approved on 4/13/15

UPCOMING EVENTS

- PARCC testing
 - Dates are set for five days beginning March 24 for grades 3, 4 and 5.
 - Testing will be online.
 - We expect 100% participation.
- Parent-teacher conferences are coming up.
- MABE conference: 18 teachers attended, 6 presented.

Next Board meeting: April 13, 2015, 5:00-6:30 pm.

By unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Martin Huntley